

REMARKS

Claims 1-29 are pending in the application. Claims 1-29 stand rejected. In view of the following, all rejected claims are in condition for allowance.

Rejection of Claims 1-3, 5, 7-10, 13-14, 16, 18-21, 24-26 and 28-29 Under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) As Being Anticipated By Huber

Claim 1

Claim 1 recites a connector including a first contact that contacts a conductor of a first circuit, a second contact that contacts a conductor of a second circuit, and a capacitor coupled between the first and second contacts, the capacitor being serially coupled only to the first and second contacts, the connector capacitively couples the conductor of the first circuit to the conductor of the second circuit.

For example, referring, e.g., to FIG. 1 and paragraph 21 of the present specification, a connector 10 capacitively couples a first circuit device 12 to a second circuit device 14. The connector 10 includes a first pair of male contacts 40 and 42 and a second pair of male contacts 44 and 46. The connector 10 further includes AC blocking capacitors 50 and 52. The capacitor 50 is coupled between contact 40 and contact 44 and the capacitor 52 is coupled between the contact 42 and the contact 46.

Huber, on the other hand, fails to teach the limitations of claim 1. For example, Huber, at, e.g., FIGS. 1-2 and col. 1, line 41 to col. 2, line 18, discloses a connector housing (connector) 1 having connector blades 2-10. Each connector blade (contact) 2, 3, 5 and 6 is designed as the end of a contact insertion part 13, 14, 15, 16. Each contact insertion part 13, 14, 15, 16 is set off with a stepped formation and, on its first step 17, is electroconductively connected to a connection 18 of an interference-suppression capacitor 19, 20, 21, 22. An offset 24 of each contact

insertion part 13, 14, 15, 16 represents an electrical connection of the contact insertion parts 13, 14, 15, 16 among themselves. As such, between any two of the contacts 2, 3, 5, 6 are two of the capacitors 19, 20, 21, 22. Consequently, each capacitor 19, 20, 21, 22 is not only serially coupled to first and second contacts, but also to another of the capacitors 19, 20, 21, 22. Moreover, there is no teaching or suggestion in Huber that the contacts 2, 3, 5, 6 contact more than one circuit. Accordingly, in no manner does Huber teach or suggest that any of the capacitors 19, 20, 21, 22 are serially coupled only to a first contact and a second contact of the contacts 2, 3, 5, 6, such that the housing 1 capacitively couples a conductor of a first circuit to a conductor of a second circuit.

Although the Examiner cites the capacitor 19 as being serially coupled only to the contacts 2 and 7, there is no indication in Huber that the contacts 2 and 7 are at all electrically coupled. The Examiner alleges that the base plate 25 taught by Huber is a "substrate" that somehow inherently provides an electrical connection between contacts 2-6 and 7-10 "for the connector [1] to function as intended." The Applicant's attorney respectfully submits that Huber fails in any manner to support the Examiner's conclusion. The teachings of Huber do not teach or suggest that current does or must flow across the connector between contacts 2-6 and 7-10. In fact, the connector of Huber could function in a manner such that contacts 2-6, in electrical isolation from contacts 7-10, may be used to connect circuit elements to one another. Contacts 7-10 could function in a similar manner. Moreover, even if contacts 2 and 7, for example, are electrically coupled, the capacitor 19 would not only be serially coupled to contacts 2 and 7, but is also serially coupled, as discussed above, to another of the capacitors 20, 21, 22. Accordingly, Huber fails to teach or suggest the limitations of claim 1.

Claims 13 and 24

Claims 13 and 24 are patentable for reasons similar to those discussed above in connection with claim 1.

Claims 2-3, 5, 7-10, 14, 16, 18-21, 25-26 and 28-29

Claims 2-3, 5, 7-10, 14, 16, 18-21, 25-26 and 28-29 are patentable by virtue of their respective dependencies from claims 1, 13 and 24.

Rejection of Claims 4 and 15 Under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) As Being Unpatentable Over Huber In View of Dolin

Claims 4 and 15

Dolin fails to supply the teachings missing from Huber, namely a capacitor being serially coupled only to first and second contacts. As such, Huber and Dolin, taken either each alone or in combination, fail to teach or suggest the limitations of claims 1 and 13. Accordingly, claims 4 and 15 are patentable by virtue of their respective dependencies from claims 1 and 13.

Rejection of Claims 6, 11-12, 17, 22-23 and 27 Under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) As Being Unpatentable Over Huber

Claims 6, 11-12, 17, 22-23 and 27 are patentable by virtue of their respective dependencies from claims 1, 13 and 24.

CONCLUSION

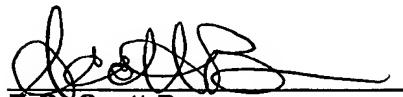
In view of the foregoing, claims 1-29 are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 425.455.5575. If after considering this response the Examiner does not allow all the claims, the Applicant's attorney requests that the Examiner contact him to schedule a teleconference to further the prosecution of the application. In the event additional fees are due as a

result of this amendment, you are hereby authorized to charge such payment to
Deposit Account No. 07-1897.

Dated: August 22, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

GRAYBEAL JACKSON HALEY LLP



P.G. Scott Born
Registration No. 40,523
155 - 108th Avenue N.E., Suite 350
Bellevue, WA 98004-5901
(425) 455-5575